

# I-405/SR 167 Corridor

## Express Toll Lanes

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**Joint Transportation Committee**  
July 23, 2015

# I-405 Traffic Is Getting Worse

- **Bad traffic**

- Drivers on I-405 experience some of the worst traffic in the state, up to eight hours of congestion each day
- Today the southbound I-405 HOV lane drops below 45 mph 200 days out of the year and I-405 HOV lanes are congested 60 percent of weekdays
- By 2030, employment will grow by 50 percent and the area will see 25 percent more residents



- **Crowded HOV Lanes**

- I-405 HOV lanes are not meeting state and federal requirements to operate at 45 mph 90 percent of the time during peak hours
- I-405 HOV lanes are often just as congested as the regular lanes

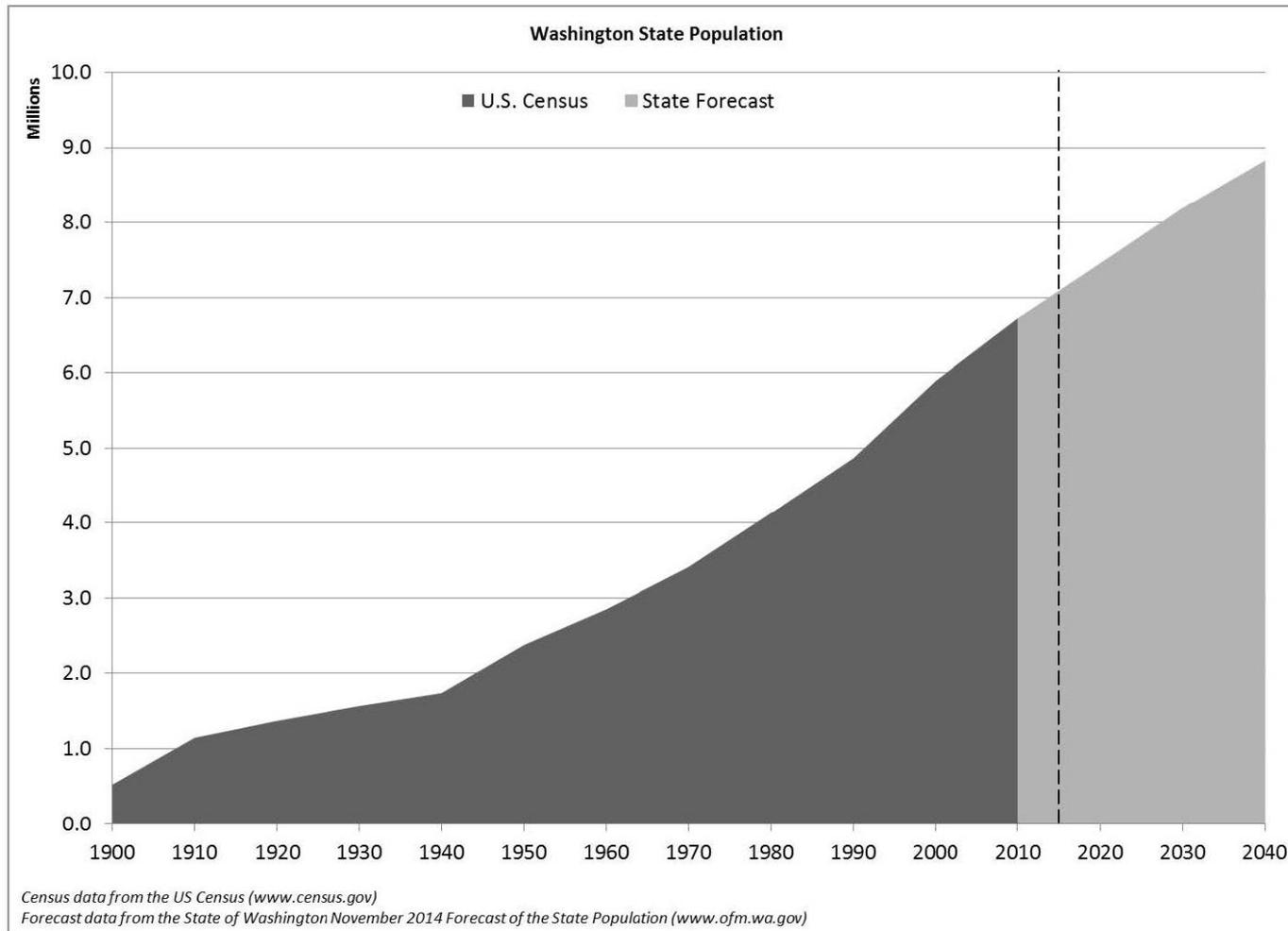


- **Transit Suffers**

- Congested lanes significantly delay transit trips and reduce reliability

# Washington State Population Growth

*Rapid population and job growth leads to more traffic*



# I-405 Master Plan

## Regional Consensus

- EIS Record of Decision, 2002

## Roadways

- 2 new lanes in each direction
- Local arterial improvements

## Transit & Transportation Choices

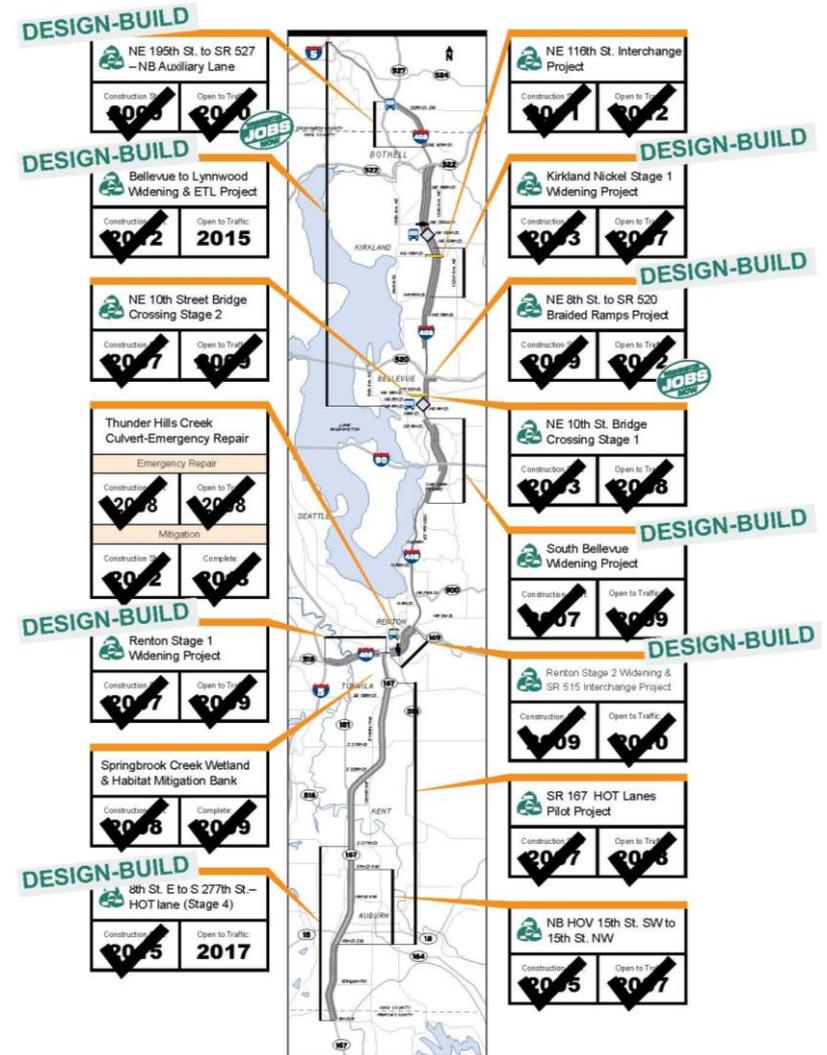
- Bus Rapid Transit system
- 9 new transit centers added
- 50% transit service increase
- HOV direct access ramps and flyer stops
- Potential managed lanes system
- 5000 new Park & Ride spaces
- 1700 new vanpools

## Environmental Enhancements



# 13 projects delivered on time, under budget

- \$1.5 billion authorized by the Legislature
- \$1.3 billion delivered on schedule, under budget
- Bellevue to Lynnwood project (expected completion in 2015) is start of 40-mile corridor managed lanes system



# I-405 Master Plan: Multimodal and making progress

**Add 2 lanes in each direction**  
30% complete



**Local arterial improvements**  
50% complete



**Transit station and BRT expansions**  
70% complete



**Park and Ride expansions**  
80% complete



**Transit service increase**  
40% complete



**Direct access ramps**  
45% complete



**Vanpool service increase**  
30% complete



**Managed lanes system**  
40% complete



**Pedestrian/bicycle improvements**  
25% complete



# 2010 EAG Recommendation: 40-mile system of Express Toll Lanes

*The back bone to bus rapid transit (BRT)*

## Phase 1: Funded

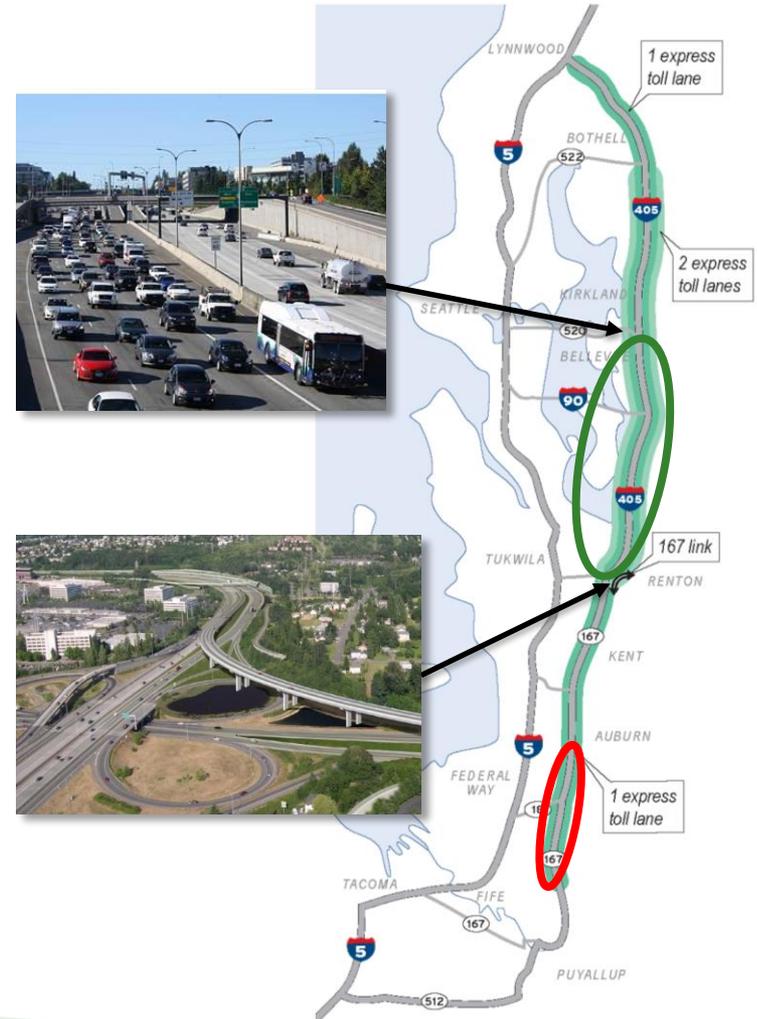
- Bellevue to Lynnwood Widening and Express Toll Lanes – Opens early fall 2015
- SR 167 Stage 4 – Planned to open 2017

## Phase 2: Funded

- Renton to Bellevue Widening and Express Toll Lanes
- I-405/SR 167 Direct Connector

## Phase 2: Unfunded

- SR 167 Stage 5 – \$35 M PE/ROW/CN



# Next steps

## Over \$1.3 billion of new investment in the I-405/SR 167 corridor

### ✓ Implement corridor priority projects

The SR 167 Direct Connector will be ready to start the design build procurement process this fall. WSDOT will continue to look for practical design opportunities during this procurement. Preliminary engineering and right-of-way work on Renton to Bellevue I-405 widening will continue until mid-2019 when construction is anticipated to begin. Over the next several biennia, work on the NE 124<sup>th</sup> and NE 132<sup>nd</sup> interchanges will begin as well.

### ✓ Reconvene the I-405/SR 167 EAG

Engage stakeholders to guide this next phase of investment in I-405/SR 167 and identify next priorities in the corridor

### ✓ Work with transit partners to implement BRT

Partner with Sound Transit, King County Metro and Community Transit to implement the preferred mode for I-405

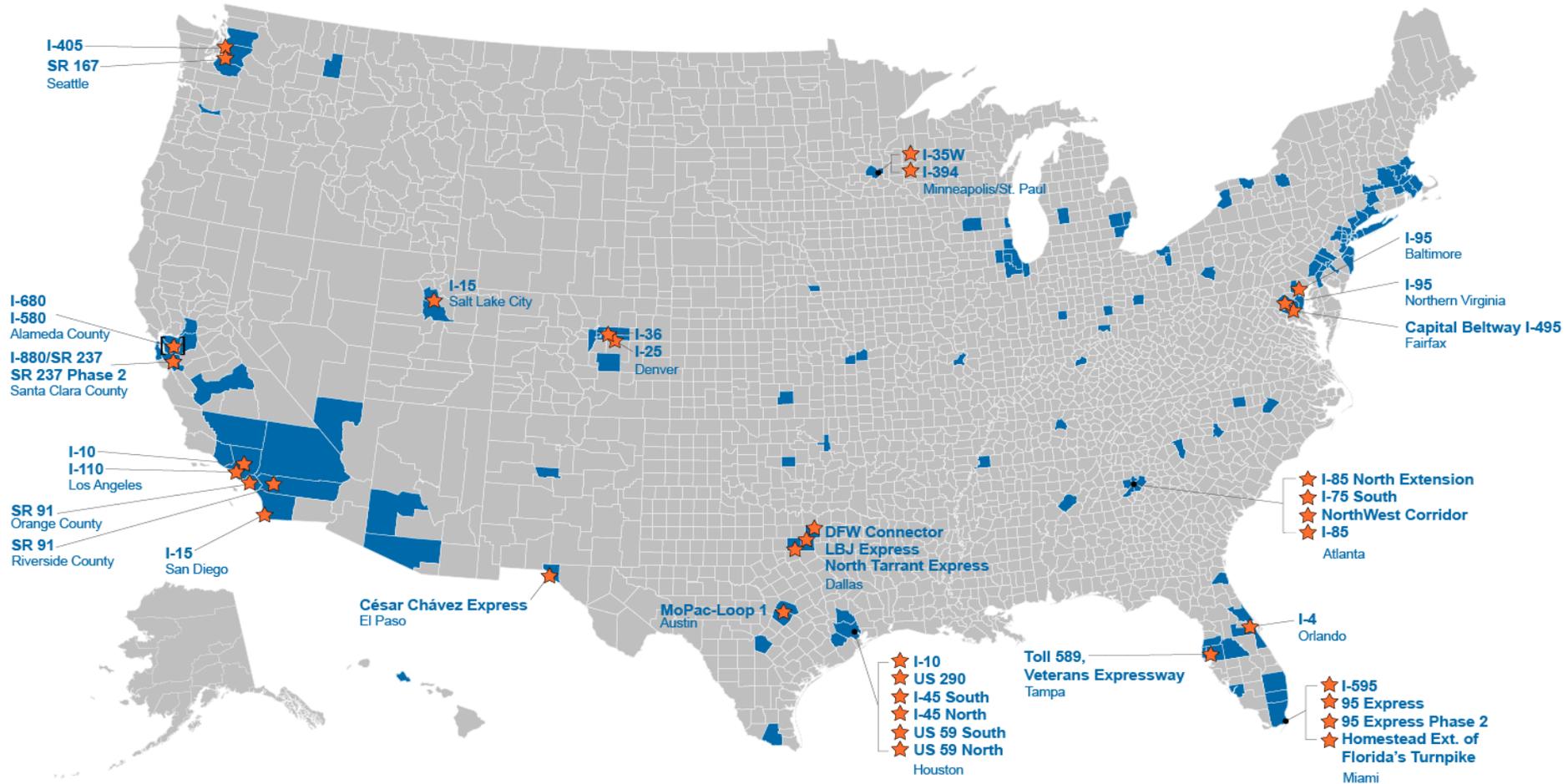


# Animated Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8tzocP4UfZk>



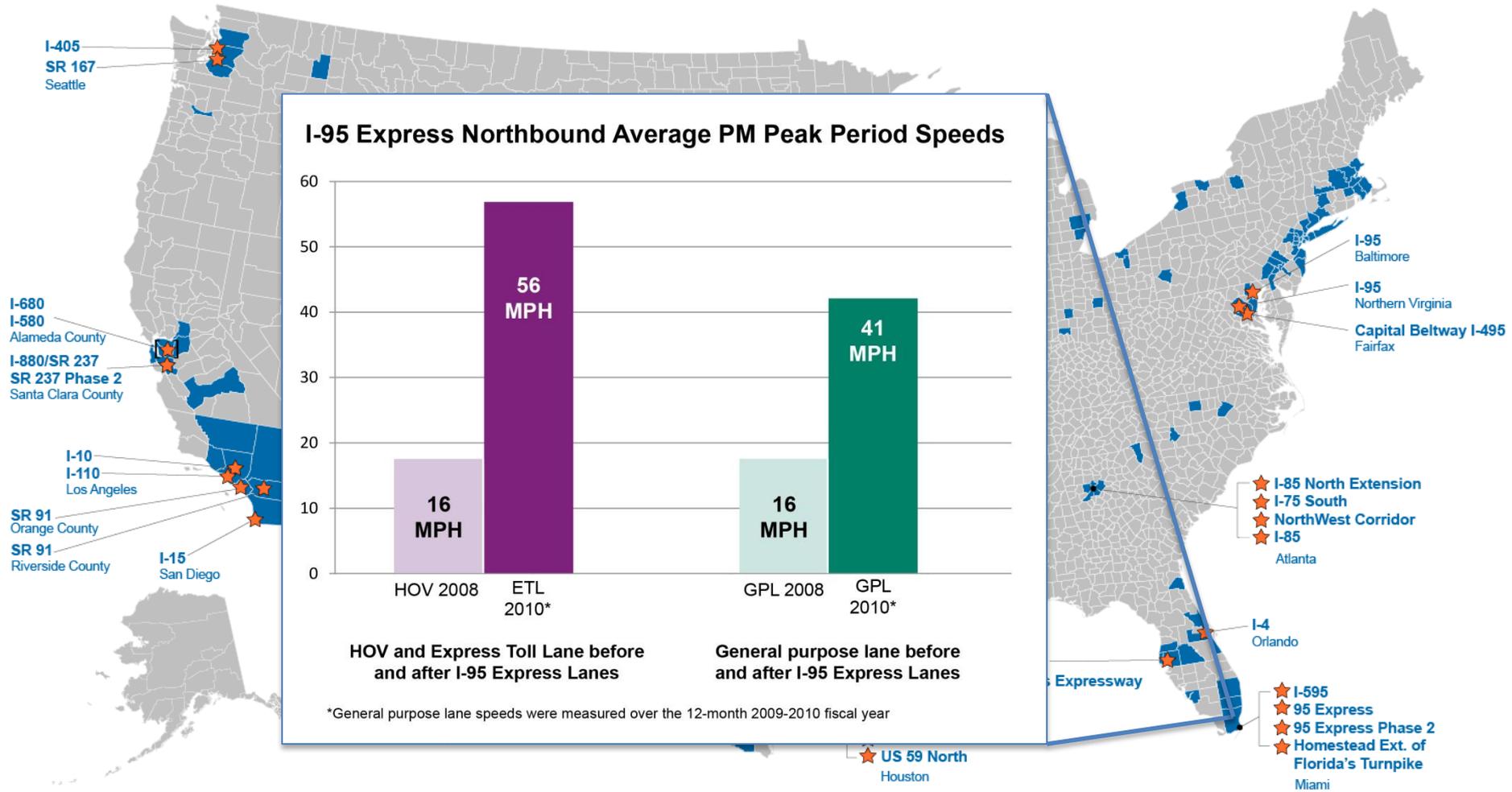
# Express Toll Lanes are used across the country as part of the solution to urban congestion



**LEGEND** ★ Express toll lanes  
 🗺️ Half of the United States population live in these counties

Map of United States of America with counties by FreeVectorMaps.com

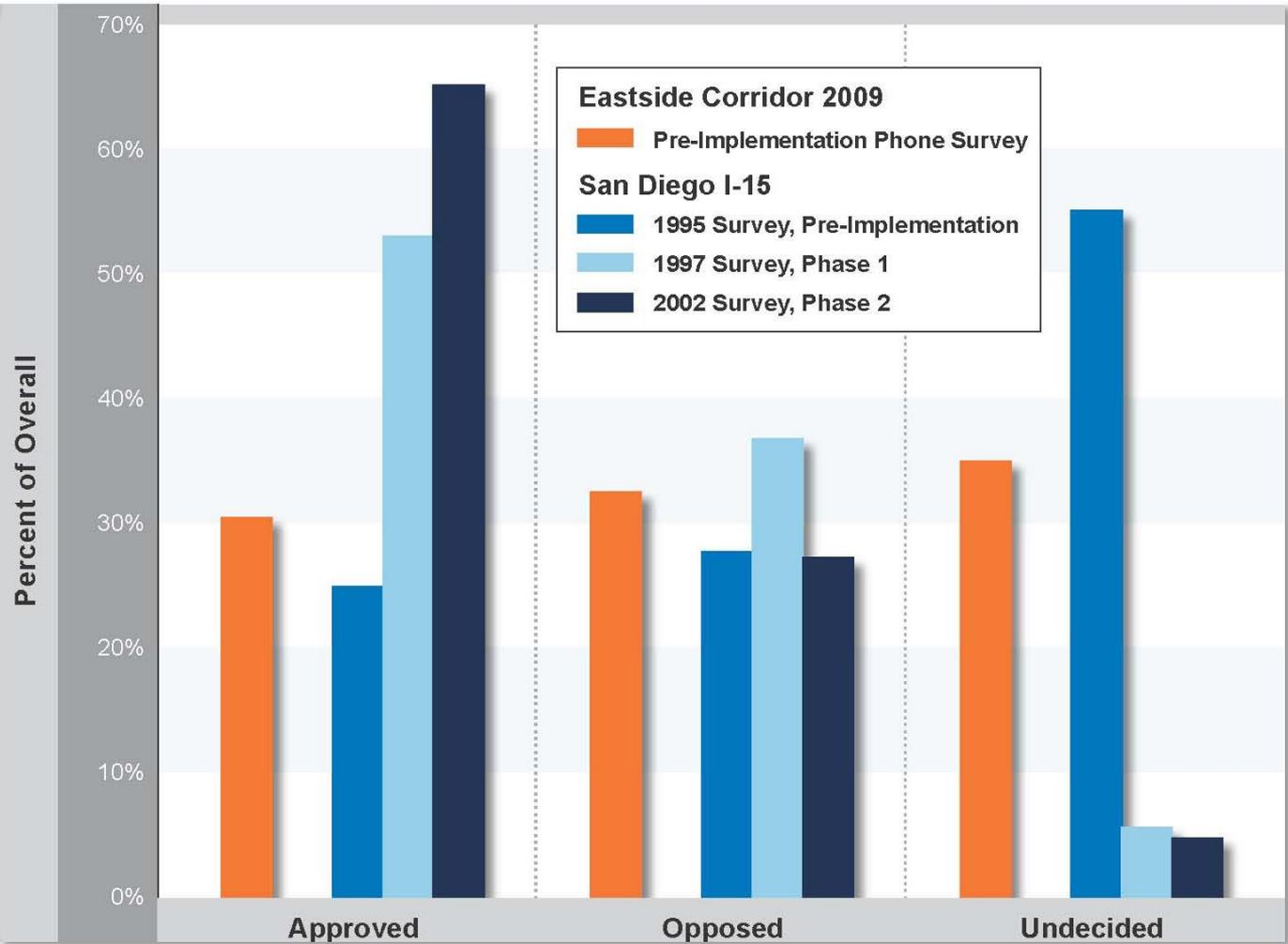
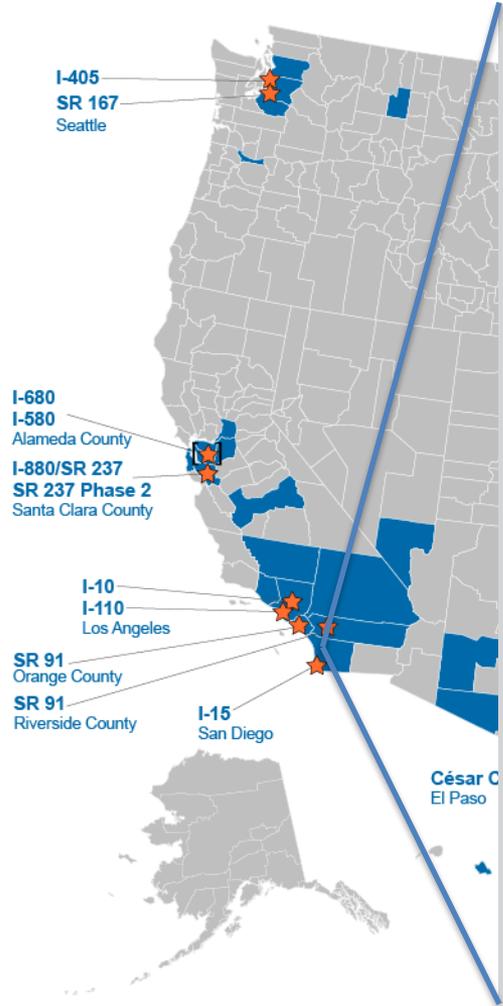
# What happened in Miami on I-95? Improved Performance in all Lanes



**LEGEND** ★ Express toll lanes  
 🗺️ Half of the United States population live in these counties  
 Map of United States of America with counties by FreeVectorMaps.com

# What happened in San Diego on I-15?

## Public Support



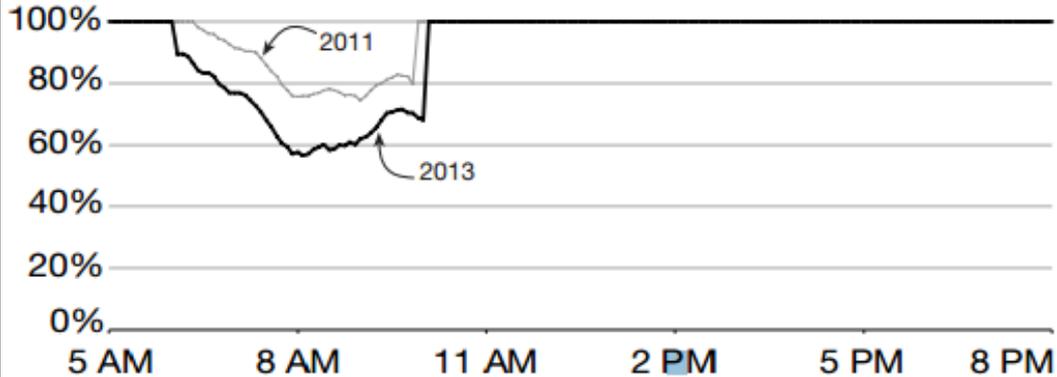
**LEGEND** ★ Express toll lanes  
 ◼ Half of the United States population live in these counties  
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# Principles of Express Toll Lanes

## “Why do they work?”

### Southbound I-405 at NE 160th Street (MP 22.5)

Based on the highest observed 5 min. flow rate 1,800 vphpl = 100%



Based on the highest observed 5-minute flow rates (vehicle-per-mile-per-lane) during 2011 and 2013

- These charts show how congestion reduces productivity on I-405 today
- During congested periods, productivity is reduced, and less traffic gets through

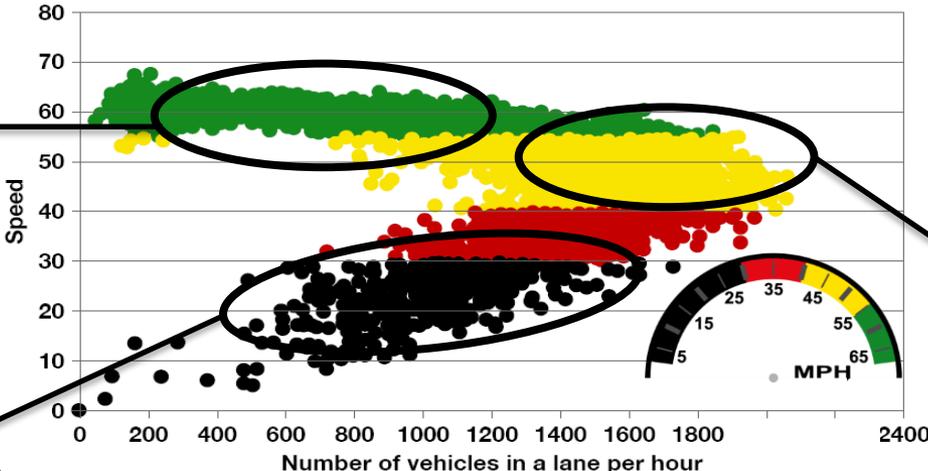


I-405 in Washington

# Principles of Express Toll Lanes

## “Why do they work?”

If demand < capacity, speeds are high and demand equals throughput



If demand = capacity, speeds are around 45 MPH and throughput is highest

If demand > capacity, speeds drop, and less traffic gets through overall



I-95 Express Toll Lanes in Miami, Florida

# Customer Focused Statewide Consistency

- *Good To Go!* electronic tolling: one transponder and one account for drivers to use all toll facilities
- Photo tolling: one billing as drivers use toll facilities (not available on SR 167, yet)
- Statewide policy - toll systems should be simple, unified, and interoperable
- In 2014, WSDOT processed 36.1 million transactions with annual toll revenues of \$126.6 million
- By 2017, WSDOT expects to handle 97 million transactions with \$280 million in revenue

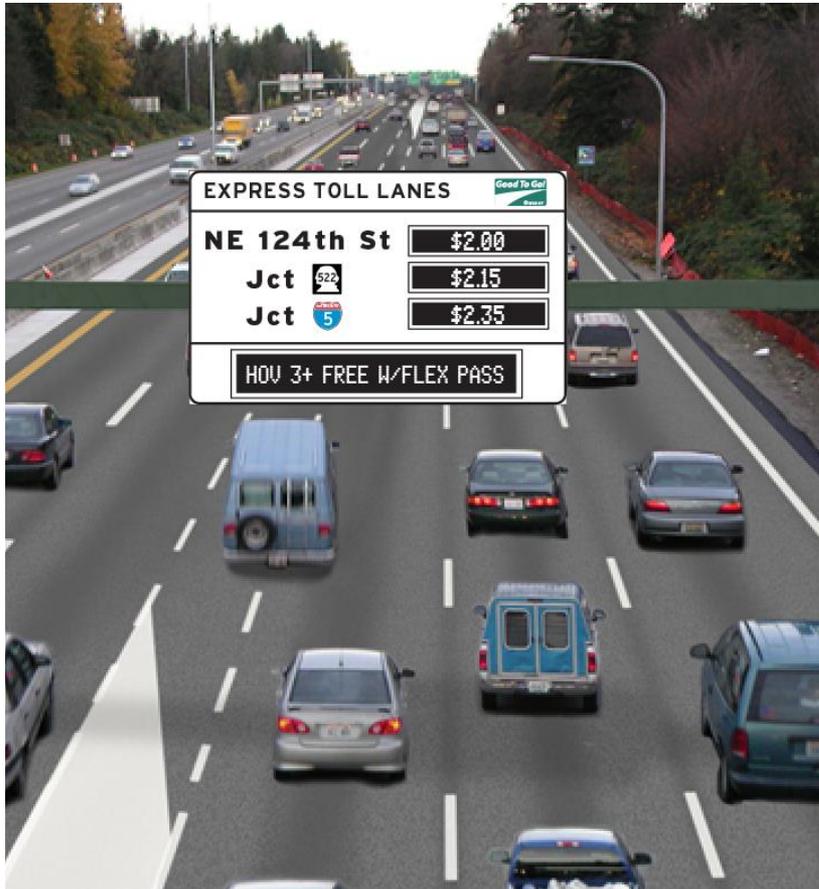


# Expectations for Opening – Time to Adjust

- 2+/3+ carpool requirement
- New access points
- Change in lane striping
- Repurposed auxiliary lanes



# Expectations for Opening - Variable Toll Rates and Zones



| EXPRESS TOLL LANES             |  |               |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>NE 124th St</b>             |  | <b>\$0.75</b> |
| <b>Jct</b>                     |  | <b>\$1.00</b> |
| <b>Jct</b>                     |  | <b>\$1.25</b> |
| <b>HOV 3+ FREE W/FLEX PASS</b> |  |               |

| EXPRESS TOLL LANES             |  |               |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------|
| <b>NE 128th St</b>             |  | <b>\$1.25</b> |
| <b>NE 85th St</b>              |  | <b>\$1.50</b> |
| <b>NE 6th St</b>               |  | <b>\$1.75</b> |
| <b>HOV 3+ FREE W/FLEX PASS</b> |  |               |

# Expectations for Opening – Transition Period



I-495 in Northern Virginia

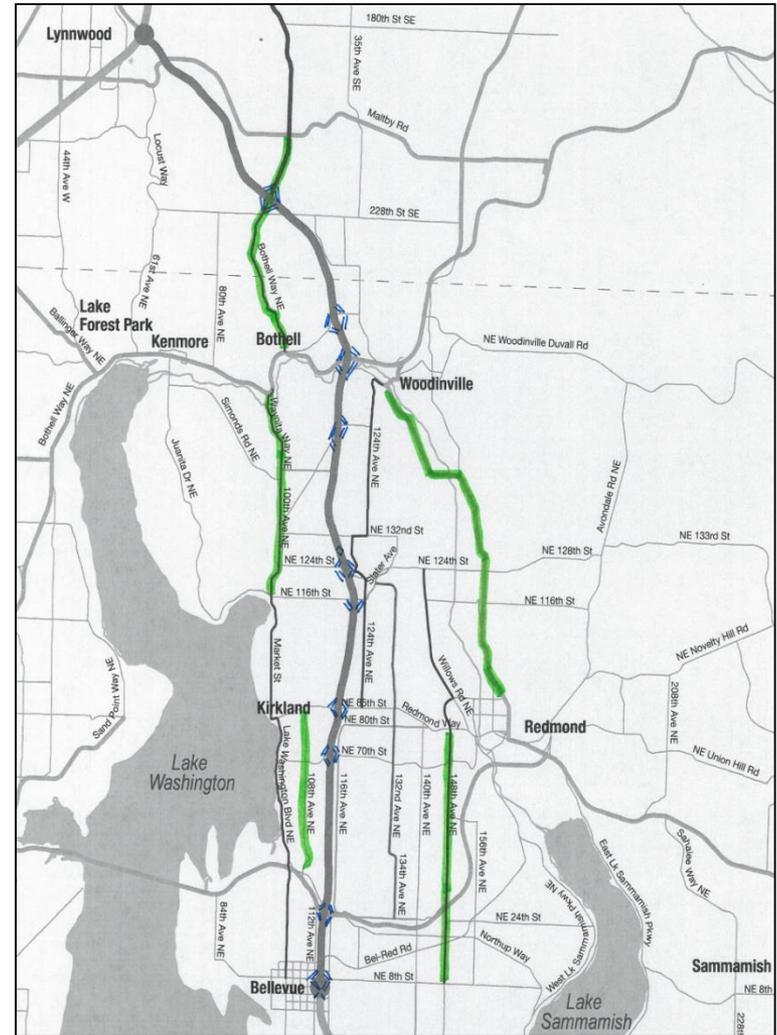


I-85 in Georgia

[Photo Credit: Jason Braverman](#)

# Traffic Monitoring Plan

- **Similar to other tolling projects, WSDOT will be collecting traffic data before and after the 405 express toll lanes open**
- **Traffic Performance in ETLs and GP Lanes**
  - Speeds
  - Travel Times
  - Vehicle Throughput (vehicles/hour)
- **Data Collection Schedule**
  - May 2015 (Pre Go-Live)
  - August 2015 (Pre Go-Live)
  - October 2015
  - May 2016
  - October 2016



# Public Outreach is Mission Critical

|                      | 2014 |     |     | 2015 |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------------------|------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
|                      | Oct  | Nov | Dec | Jan  | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep |
| Creative development |      |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Speaker bureau       |      |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Earned media         |      |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Paid media           |      |     |     |      |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |

**Total Briefings: 85**

**Total Audience: 2,700**



As of July 2015

# Changes for HOV Lane Users

## Carpool incentive:

- 10,233 free passes distributed

## Motorcycle Pass incentive:

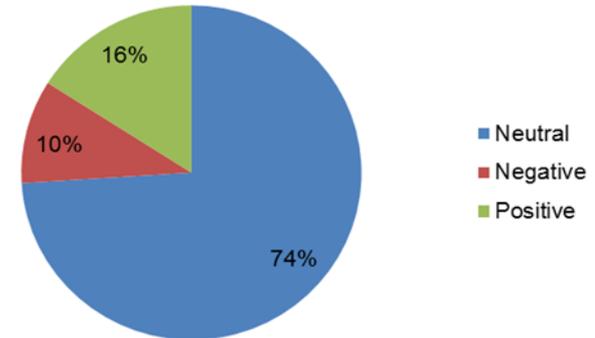
- 2,653 free passes requested
- 10,000 motorcycle passes in use

## Total Passes in Use:

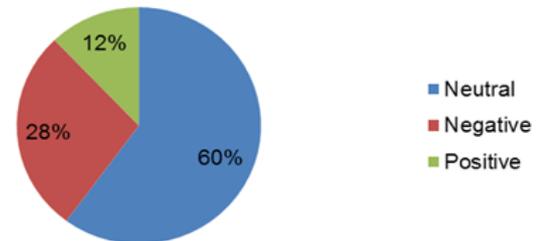
- Passes: 955,084

*“It is very thoughtful of you to provide such services to commuters like myself, very much appreciated”*  
–Amir from Snohomish

Feedback from carpoolers on RideshareOnline.com



Feedback from motorcyclists on SurveyMonkey.com



# I-405 ETL – Getting Ready for September

- Flex Pass transponders widely distributed
- Good To Go! Customer Service Center ready
- Rideshare match for carpoolers
- Project on time and budget

**I-405 Express Toll Lanes  
Good To Go!**

**For more information on the I-405/SR 167 Corridor,  
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